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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Himalayan Crocodile Newt

Tylototriton verrucosus

Tylototriton verrucosus is a large, dark brown crocodile newt from the mountains of western Yunnan, northern Myanmar and adjoining regions. It grows to 13-24 cm and is the most water-loving of the crocodile newts kept in enclosures: during the warm part of the year it often stays entirely in the water, where it is active and inquisitive.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Pleurodeles verrucosus; Triturus verrucosus* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-24 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**12-18 g**
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Montane forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**12-36 months**
Eggs per season	**30-200**
Hatching	**10-12 days** at 25 °C
Larval period	**90-150 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**18-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 12-15 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Tylototriton verrucosus* is best kept in an aquaterrarium. Above about 18 °C the dark form can be kept entirely in water. An aquarium of 60 × 30 × 35 cm suits two pairs of the dark form and fewer animals of the larger forms.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 18-25 °C, with about 25 °C in summer, and 15-20 °C at night. In winter the animals are kept at 15-18 °C. The dark form tolerates both higher and lower temperatures for a few days without harm.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is not decisive in a water-rich set-up; 70-90 % is an estimate. Where there is land, keep the land section damp but not muddy. Make sure the air does not stand still.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water depth is 12-15 cm. Change 20-30 % of the water every other week, and more often if there is a lot of uneaten food. Tap water is treated with a water conditioner against chlorine, chloramine and heavy metals before use.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active at dusk and at night, and UVB is not necessary. A day length of about 12 hours in summer is a good, but not essential, rhythm, and otherwise the light just needs to suit the plants. Avoid direct sun.
FEEDING	The species is not fussy, and large females can eat astonishing amounts in a short time.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	In the water the animal is active and inquisitive and can become quite tame: it swims over to the glass for food and takes food from tweezers and fingers. It is not suited to daily handling, however.
NATIVE RANGE	China, Myanmar (Burma), India and Thailand.